

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 114

By Barnes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study mental health services on public college and university campuses.

WHEREAS, in Tennessee and across the nation there is heightened awareness of the importance of having quality mental health services available for students on university and college campuses; and

WHEREAS, at present, access to such services may be inconsistent due to numerous reasons, including social stigma, the difficulty of coordinating the delivery and provision of mental health services in higher education settings and inadequate funding of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that mental health resources and services be available on campuses to help students and parents get needed care for students with mental health conditions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study mental health services on public college and university campuses, including but not limited to, the availability of mental health services for students, current mental health staff-to-student ratios, the number of mental health referrals and incidents on campuses, and the necessary steps to ensure that adequate services are funded and being provided for both students and faculty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the house of representatives and three (3) members of the senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Seventh General Assembly no later than February 1, 2012, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.